



Republic of the Philippines
Professional Regulation Commission
Manila



RESOLUTION NO. 1429
Series of 2021

**POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 2021 OPTOMETRISTS LICENSURE
EXAMINATION – WRITTEN AND PRACTICAL PHASE**

WHEREAS, Section 7 (d) of Republic Act No. 8981 or the PRC Modernization Act of 2000 empowers the Professional Regulation Commission (Commission) to administer and conduct the licensure examinations of the various regulatory boards in accordance with the rules and regulations it may promulgate; to determine and fix the places and dates of examinations;

WHEREAS, the Commission issued Resolution No. 1283 (s. 2020) scheduling the licensure examinations for the Optometrists Licensure Examination (OLE); Practical Phase on April 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2021, and October 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2021 and written exam on October 12, 13, & 14, 2021 to be held in the National Capital Region (NCR);

WHEREAS, upon the directive of IATF-EID to postpone the scheduled licensure examination for the month of April 2021 in those areas under the quarantine classification of General Community Quarantine to avoid cross border transfer of examinees, Resolution No. 1348 (s. 2021) was issued postponing the April 2021 OLE – Practical Phase and resetting the same to October 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2021;

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 1397 (s. 2021) was issued increasing the number of days of the October 2021 OLE - Practical Phase from four (4) days or on October 18, 19, 20 & 21, 2021 to seven (7) days or on October 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22, 2021;

WHEREAS, in its letter dated August 19, 2021, the Philippine Association of Deans of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (PADSCO), Inc., appealed to the Board to consider deferring the October 2021 examination to a later date due to the current threat of the COVID-19 delta variant and the lambda variant;

WHEREAS, in its letter dated September 7, 2021, the Integrated Philippine Association of Optometrists (IPAO), Inc also requested the Professional Regulatory Board of Optometry (Board) to consider postponing the board examinations to a later date to protect the safety and well-being of all concerned including their families and further appeals the cancellation of the rescheduled 2020 Practical Examinations;

WHEREAS, a group of 2021 examinees from various schools in the Philippines likewise requested to postpone the October 2021 OLE, quoting their reasons herein, *in toto*:

1. Traveling to and from Manila is a dangerous undertaking as Manila is part of the National Capital Region which continues to log the most number of COVID-19 cases.
2. The transmission of the highly infectious Delta variant has been detected in all parts of Metro Manila as evidenced by the report of the Department of Health last August 6, 2021.
3. New COVID-19 cases continue to increase by the day. 19,441 cases have been reported just for August 28, 2021 alone. This number may even exceed 20,000 in the coming days as projected by the COVID-19 response team of the University of the Philippines.
4. Despite rampant vaccination programs in the country, not all have been subjected to an appointment due to poor distribution of resources.
5. Some families may have been struggling financially even before the pandemic; pushing through with the said examination in October will put a heavy toll on their financial security as added measures will be needed to ensure the safety of the examinees.
6. Further implementation of community quarantines and travel restrictions is still indefinite.
7. The safety and security of one's physical health, mental health, and emotional well-being in the middle of yet another surge of COVID-19 cases should be given utmost priority.

WHEREAS, given the foregoing, the Board and the Licensure Office recommend to the Commission the postponement of the October 2021 OLE;

WHEREFORE, premises considered, the Board **RESOLVES** to **POSTPONE** the 2021 October OLE written and practical examinations, including the March 2021 Practical Phase, and to **RESET** all, as shown in the following schedules:

Type of Examination	New Dates of Examination	Opening of Online Application	Deadline of Filing application
Written Phase	December 27, 28, and 29, 2021	September 27, 2021	November 27, 2021
Practical Phase	January 4, 5, 6 7, 10, 11, & 12, 2022	September 27, 2021	November 27, 2021

Let a copy of this Resolution be posted at the PRC Official website for information.

Done in the City of Manila this ~~29~~²⁹th day of September 2021.


TEOFILO S. PILANDO, JR.
Chairman


YOLANDA D. REYES
Commissioner


JOSE Y. CUETO, JR.
Commissioner